

Blaine and Arthur.

The faction contest, and family unpleasantness in the Republican party, which the untimely taking-off of Mr. Garfield had temporarily quieted, appears to be again developing into threatening dimensions. As is well-known, during the short administration of Mr. Garfield, the Department of State, under the leadership of Mr. Blaine, had inaugurated a vigorous American policy; in which the principles of the much talked of "Monroe doctrine" were fully and unequivocally reasserted, and in which, as many contend, the original fabric was to a considerable extent built upon. One of the manifestoes of this policy was Mr. Blaine's widely published letter of instructions to our British minister in regard to the control of the inter-oceanic canal by this Government. Another, and still more remarkable development of the policy referred to, was Mr. Blaine's invitation to all the American nations to send delegates to a "peace congress" to be held in the United States, for the purpose of "agreeing upon such a basis of arbitration for internal troubles as would remove all possibility of war on the Western Hemisphere." This invitation had not been issued during Mr. Garfield's life, but, after his death and the succession of Mr. Arthur to the Presidency, Mr. Blaine brought the matter to Mr. Arthur's attention, and informed him of Mr. Garfield's favorable consideration of the message; whereupon Mr. Arthur, Mr. Blaine informs the country, "received the suggestion with the most appreciative consideration, and after carefully examining the form of the invitation, directed that it be sent. The invitation was accordingly sent in November last to the independent governments of America North and South, including all, from the Empire of Brazil to the smallest republic.

Now, it seems, since the succession of Mr. Frelinghuysen to the portfolio of State, Mr. Arthur has reconsidered his action, and the Secretary of State has by direction of the President sent instructions to the South American ministers looking to a revocation of the invitation thus extended. This action of the administration has brought about an extensive criticism, pro and con, upon Mr. Blaine's American policy. The stalwart organs in their war upon Mr. Blaine have insisted that his action was taken without the concurrence of Mr. Arthur, and was the result of his own officiousness. A coloring is given to this assertion by the fact that, in his message to Congress, Mr. Arthur made no mention of such action by the Department of State. This has elicited from Mr. Blaine a sharp letter to the President, in which he alludes to the approval given the measure by Mr. Arthur and criticizes the reasons upon which Mr. Frelinghuysen, in his countermarching dispatches, justified the revocation of the invitations extended. In the course of his letter Mr. Blaine says: "I cannot conceive how the United States could be placed in a less enviable position than would be secured by sending in November a cordial invitation to all the American governments to meet in Washington for the sole purpose of devising effective measures of peace, and in January recalling the invitation, for fear that it might create jealousy and ill-will on the part of monarchical governments in Europe. It would be difficult to devise a more effective mode for making enemies of the American government, and it would certainly not add to our prestige in the European world.

Nor can I see, Mr. President, how European governments should feel jealousy and ill-will towards the United States because of an effort on our part to assure lasting peace between the nations of America, unless, indeed, it be the interest of European powers that American nations should at intervals fall into war, and bring reproach on Republican government. But from that very circumstance I see an additional and powerful motive for the American Government to be at peace among themselves."

Without venturing any comments on the merits of Mr. Blaine's "American policy" and the remarkable inconsistency which seems to have characterized Mr. Arthur's action in reference to it, it is easy to perceive that the embarrassing position in which the United States is placed in this matter, is due in a great measure to the hostility existing between the two factions of the Republican party. This controversy bids fair to fully re-open if not to further expand, the breach in the Republican party, and notwithstanding the liberal prophecies as to how the "solid South" was to be rent asunder by Mahanisms and kindred heresies, the present probabilities are that the year 1884 will find much more solid and healthy cohesion in the South than in the "party of great moral ideas." The "spoils system" is a slow disease, but it is inevitably fatal to every political organization that fully contracts it. The Republican party has the disease in its most malignant type, and its early dissolution is an assured fact.

Retiring Public Officers. Judge Hunt is to be retired, by an Act of Congress, on a salary of ten thousand dollars a year for the balance of his life. It is said he has a good chance to live twenty years yet, which will give him two hundred thousand dollars during his retirement. This makes the old gentleman quite comfortable. Judge Hunt came on the bench of the Supreme Court in the latter part of 1873, performed the duties of his office for about six years, and for the last three years he has been wholly disabled from practice. He received a salary of ten thousand dollars a year and stubbornly declined to resign. By action of Congress he is to retire on his salary in order to have the duties of his office performed by another appointee. This should be corrected by an amendment to the Constitution. Are we to have an endless list of retired pensioners on the National Treasury? This is the question that ought to be made at once and brought directly before the people. If old gentlemen are to be supported at the expense of Government after a certain age, let it be ascertained on principles of justice who shall constitute this favored class. It certainly will not be those gentlemen of large fortunes who have been favored with high lucrative offices till a certain age. Justice, equity and charity would forbid it.

Factions.

The habit which some people and newspapers have of regarding every vote taken in the Legislature as a victory or defeat of supposed opposing factions is exceedingly puerile, and factionists who take comfort from this or that particular vote are very easily satisfied, especially those who imagine that the defeat of any proposition introduced by what they are pleased to call the managers, means a defeat of the regular Democrats. The fact is the Legislature is composed of gentlemen who are in the habit of thinking of themselves and acting for themselves, men who are too independent to go at the nod of any boss, no matter with what power or patronage he may be invested. The diversity of opinion, upon important questions affecting the interests of the State and the maintenance of Democratic policy and Legislation, is controlled by no managers and recognizes no bosses, but that each individual member act like men, according to their convictions of right and duty.

We are glad to see that there are differences of opinion as to the details of measures proposed for legislative action. So long as the members of the Legislature show independence of thought and action, the people may rest satisfied that what is done will be done for the public good, and that the schemes of bosses who affect to control legislation by the use of patronage will come to nothing. We should regret to see too much unanimity, as such a condition would argue the controlling power of some superior influence, and we should then have reason to fear that instead of legislating for the good of the people, their representatives would simply be recording the will of a boss. We have supreme confidence in the honesty and integrity of the representatives of Democracy now assembled at Annapolis, and feel that whilst there may be and should be honest differences of opinion as to the matter and time of adopting certain legislation, still such action will finally be taken upon all important measures as will fully redeem the pledges made by the party to the people, and place upon the statute books such laws as will enable Maryland to hold the same honorable position among her sister States which in the past it has been her high privilege to occupy.—Hagerstown Weekly News.

Our Itinerary.

Prof. Newell says that there are in this State 134,000 illiterate persons, and 34,000 of them voters, who can neither read nor write. A man may have the right to be ignorant if he so desires, but he has no right to impose his ignorance on intelligent people as he does when he is made their equal at the ballot box, especially when he has had the opportunity of qualifying himself, as every man, white or black, now has in this State. In this connection a proposition has been suggested to our Legislature that, we think, worthy of the gravest consideration. It is that after five years from this time reading and writing be made a necessary qualification for registration.

In times past the colored portion of our population, who predominate largely in this section of the State, did not have the opportunities of education, and the colored portion then cannot be expected to be up in "book learning." But now, and for ten years past, any one of them who desired to learn to read and write could have done it, and if they have not the fault is with themselves and not with the State, that has abundantly supplied them with facilities.

With a provision of this kind inserted in the registration bill now before the House, five years notice would be served on the rising generation, and if in that time they do not qualify they will be but little interested in the good government of the State and nation, and their enforced absence from the polls can be productive of no harm to themselves or the country.

St. John's College.

President Leavitt has presented to the Legislature his report of the above institution and an appeal for aid to resuscitate the old college and infuse into its new life of such a character as will make it self-sustaining. He gives a brief history of the college from its birth, two hundred years ago, its merging with King William's school a hundred years later, the increase of the property by private contributions and the acceptance of the college property as a trust by the State and its nourishment since as one of its wards.

An annual grant of \$27,000 is asked for with which to erect and furnish the necessary buildings for a technical department, the improvement of the present building and for the support of the institution. In furtherance of his plan he says that the friends of the college will give the present debt of \$14,000, and that one of its friends will give real estate yielding an annual rental of \$1,000. Dr. Leavitt has visited every county in the State and has found a growing sentiment in favor of perpetuating the old college. St. John's has educated some of our best citizens; and they naturally feel an interest in the perpetuation of their Alma Mater. There are many others who desire to educate their children in the State and they want to see St. John's in a healthy condition. The people generally, we believe, want to see the college encouraged and sustained as a State institution. With proper means and management St. John's can become one of the proudest boasts of the people of Maryland.

Another Centennial Celebration.

Yesterday a delegation consisting of Messrs. Johnson, Mudd and others of the Maryland Legislature, visited the Capitol and consulted with the Maryland Senators and Representatives in Congress as to the advisability of asking Congress to appropriate money to aid the people of Annapolis in their forthcoming centennial celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the surrender of his sword by Gen. George Washington in the court house at Annapolis, 23, 1863. Promises of assistance were given the visitors, who were introduced to Senators Bayard, Hawley and others, who promised their cooperation in making the event a notable one.

The Assassin Guiteau.

On Saturday last Judge Cox pronounced sentence of death on the assassin of President Garfield in the following very impressive language:

You have been convicted of a crime so terrible in its circumstances, and so far reaching in its results, that it has drawn upon you the horror of the whole world and the execrations of your countrymen. The excitement produced by such an offense made it no easy task to secure for you a fair and impartial trial; but you have been the power of the United States treasury and of the government in your service to protect your person from violence and to procure evidence from all parts of the country. You have had as fair and impartial a jury as ever assembled in a court of justice. You have been defended by counsel with a zeal and devotion that merit the highest encomiums, and I certainly have done my best to secure a fair presentation of your defence. Notwithstanding all this, you have been found guilty. It would have been a comfort to many people if the verdict of the jury had established the fact that your act was that of an irresponsible man, that you had taken the people's satisfaction as the crime of political assassination was something entirely foreign to institutions and civilization of our country; but the result has been a different one. The jury will accept it as a fact that that crime can be committed; and the court will have to do with it with the highest penalty known in a criminal code, to serve as an example to others. Your career has been so extraordinary that people might well, at times, have doubted your sanity. But you cannot but believe that when the crime was committed, you thoroughly understood the nature of the crime and its consequences. I would have taken the people's satisfaction, and that you had moral sense and conscience enough to recognize the moral injury of such an act. [Prisoner.—That's a matter of opinion.] I would have taken the people's satisfaction, and that you had moral sense and conscience enough to recognize the moral injury of such an act. [Prisoner.—That's a matter of opinion.] I would have taken the people's satisfaction, and that you had moral sense and conscience enough to recognize the moral injury of such an act. [Prisoner.—That's a matter of opinion.]

The Senate passed the bill to redivide the election districts and precincts of Baltimore county. The House passed the Senate resolutions extending the eligibility of Judges Bartol, Brown and Hammond. Joint resolutions were offered and referred relating to the Citizens' Railway Company to run cars in Baltimore from one terminus to another. The House passed the bill granting seven days' leave of absence with pay to policemen in Baltimore each year, and it now goes to the Senate. The House adjourned till Monday evening, and the Senate until Tuesday noon.

The Maryland House of Delegates reassembled at Annapolis to-night pursuant to adjournment. A message was received from the Governor announcing that he had signed the Baltimore precinct bill. The election committee promised to report the registration bill to-day.

In the Senate a letter was read from the police board in opposition to the House bill granting seven days' leave of absence to members of the force every year. The bill allowing duplicate samples and a board of arbitration in State tobacco inspections was reported favorably and read.

In the House of Delegates leaves were granted for the introduction of a number of bills, and the subject of city extension was under discussion. The Senate registration bill was reported and read the second time.

In the Senate bills were introduced to punish the forgery of labels on canned goods, authorizing the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to break other roads in building its Philadelphia branch, and reducing the rate of interest to be paid in refunding the defense loan. The bill to provide against the spread of infectious diseases was passed.

In the House of Delegates a message was adopted to force an immediate settlement of the printing squabble, but the Senate staved it off. The House considered the Senate resolutions, both with third reading on the tenth section without changes.

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In the House a bill relieving the leading Railroad Company from the tax assessed on wages certificates was defeated. The amount involved is \$48,700.

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In the United States Senate a bill was passed to purchase for the government the Freedman's Bank in Washington for a sum not to exceed \$250,000. A concurrent resolution was offered by Mr. Morgan for a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Mexico. The remainder of the session was spent in debate on Mr. Ingalls' resolution declaring that the pension laws ought to be repealed. In the House of Representatives resolutions were presented, among them a bill to establish a farmers' market in the District of Columbia, for the appointment of an intercommerce commission; a subsidy for the establishment of steamship mail service between the United States and Great Britain. The rules were suspended and a bill passed providing that no person who is guilty of bigamy or polygamy shall be eligible to sit in Congress as a Delegate from any Territory.

In the United States Senate a bill was reported favorably from the military committee to retire Brigadier-General Meigs with the rank and pay of major-general. Mr. Coke made a speech in favor of a tariff for revenue.

In the House the "Nicaraguan claims" bill was reported unfavorably from the foreign committee. The Indian appropriation bill, which appropriates \$4,920,300, was reported from the committee on appropriations. The remainder of the session was spent in discussing the appropriation bill, Messrs. Robinson, Mills, Florr and Chase denouncing it as unfair and in the interest of the larger States.

In the United States Senate a bill was introduced directing the Secretary of the Treasury to examine and settle the account of certain States and the city Baltimore, and to never be ill and found the secret of her health and long life in being always a water drinker.

A judge and jury disagreed as to how much Mr. Robinson, of Sidney, O., should pay to Miss Alteman for having kissed her against her will. The jury gave a verdict of \$450, and the judge reduced the amount to \$300.

The Legislature.

In the Senate Senator Williams presented a message to the House, proposing a letter of thanks to the Hon. John W. Garret, through the hands of the Governor, for the gift to the State of the copy of Mycetes' portrait of Lord Baltimore, and requesting that the Governor have the same appropriately hung in the Executive Chamber, which was unanimously adopted.

Senator Allison presented memorial from citizens of St. Mary's county, protesting against the abolition of the tobacco inspection laws.

The question of the Legislative printing was discussed, and it was finally agreed to award the contract on the 7th instant. In the House the Speaker presented a letter from Mr. Enoch Pratt, accompanying two petitions, one from the board of managers of the House of Reform and Instruction for Colored Children, asking \$10,000 for 1883 and 1884; the other from the managers of the Maryland School for the Deaf and Dumb, for \$25,000 for 1883 and 1884.—Mr. Pratt says in his letter that they can do with no less than the amounts asked.

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Notes.

Oscar Wilde will shake the dust of this blasted country from his feet in April.

George Washington would have made a very poor newspaper correspondent, for reasons which it is unnecessary to enter upon here.

The alumni of Yale College residing in Boston had their annual dinner on Thursday evening. About 75 were present.

Eight men who reside near Potosdam, St. Lawrence county, boast an aggregate of 662 years. The oldest is 93, the youngest 78.

The Boston Globe says now that Mrs. Lincoln has been voted \$15,000 and a substantial yearly pension, it leaks out that she has \$55,000 invested in 3 1/2 per cent. bonds.

A story is out that disease lurks in ice. This is, doubtless, a weak invention calculated to injure those poor but well-meaning corporations known as ice companies.

Speaker Keifer has issued an order prohibiting the sale of liquor in the House restaurant, in the Capitol at Washington. "Cold tea" is kept on tap as usual, however.

Jake Shipper, the guano crank, and his organs threaten to bespatter Blaine with their favorite commodity, but they haven't got the ex-secretary on the run yet.

Let us note the fact, and be duly grateful, that in most of the newspapers of last Monday the name of the brutal murderer of President Garfield did not once appear. This cannot be said of a single newspaper since the 2nd of July.

Half the papers in the country give Congressman Robinson, of New Jersey, the credit of twisting the tail of the British lion the other day until the royal beast howled diamally, when, as a matter of fact, it was a crank member from New York named Robinson.

The Catholics of Marlboro', Mass., have banded themselves together to effect a reform in funerals. They have voted that only two carriages containing friends be permitted with funerals of deceased members of the church to which they are attached.

The Quincy (Illinois) Herald joins in the "movement," which seems to be taking form in funerals. It is the democratic Hon. Samuel J. Tilden the democratic nominee for the presidency in 1884. The Herald feels that with Mr. Tilden as a candidate the democratic party "is sure to win a national victory."

Edward Umhoefer, a prominent citizen of Gratz, a small town a few miles from Harrisburg, Pa., died last week of small-pox, but the nature of the disease was not given by the physician and there was a large attendance at the funeral. The sickness of three children followed, and of those at the funeral 17 are down with the disease.

P. H. Ganckel & Co., of Dayton, Ohio have purchased the property known as "Hog Island," in James river, near Jamestown, Va., containing 2,200 acres. These gentlemen are noted stock raisers, and will devote their new purchase to stock raising purposes. They will expend from \$20,000 to \$30,000, in improving the property.

The winter. The last half of winter promises to be as snowy with us as the first half was moist and rainy. It is not likely that the two snow storms which have visited us in the last ten days are the last we shall have to encounter this winter. Indeed, if we believe some of the weather prophets, who have swarmed upon us of late in such mighty force, these storms are but forerunners of mighty snow falls that will make this month of February a ten years' wonder. The past performances of these prophets, however, are not calculated to a waken much fear from their prognostications. The fact that most of them either carelessly know nothing of the results of scientific inquiry, or else treat those results with contempt, and though possessing no intellectual training to fit them for such investigations, undertake with crude theories of their own to solve the great problem of the weather, is sufficient to discredit them. It cannot be doubted that some law of nature is concerned in the anomalous condition of the weather which for a year past has caused much woe and pain in some cases much distress. It is an old saying that there is bound to be just about so much weather every year, and if the distribution is uncertain, still every country and section will in time get its share both good and bad. There is a grain of reason in this which experience has approved.

The comparison has frequently been made between this country and Europe. Several winters on one of these continents have coincided with mild winters on the other. There was an instance of this in the winter of 1873 and '78, when America was benighted with snow and Europe enjoyed an open season. It looks as though the present winter might furnish an example of this curious compression of nature, for we continually hear of severe storms and cold weather on the other side of the Atlantic, while here we have enjoyed so far, almost uniformly spring mildness.

Neighborhood Sociability.

GLYMONT, Feb. 6th, 1882.

I have often thought, that, as a rule, farmers were not social in their disposition, their position, convenience and leisure would seem to warrant. Their labors are arduous, and except in the winter months, they have little spare time to devote to personal amusements. The farm absorbs all their time and watchfulness, keep it in good condition, in order to reap the advantages following from constant, intelligent attention. Nevertheless there is always some spare time in which to keep up the social intercourse of the neighborhood. There is a great deal of pleasure in the word, mingled with pain, and we see no reason why farmers should refuse or neglect to take their share of it. Some of them look upon all social intercourse and a day's respite from the labor of the field as a waste of time utterly devoted to personal amusements. The farm absorbs all their time and watchfulness, keep it in good condition, in order to reap the advantages following from constant, intelligent attention. 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